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Ceremony Celebrating Federal Recognition of Shinnecocks

Suffolk Legislature and Tribal Members Mark the Occasion Together

Lindenhurst, NY – The Suffolk County Legislature welcomed representatives of the Shinnecock Indian Nation to congratulate them on their Federal Recognition as a tribe earlier this year and accepted a Shinnecock Nation flag to be displayed along with the flags of the ten Suffolk County towns at each General Meeting.

“It is an honor and a pleasure for me to congratulate the Shinnecock Nation on getting its long overdue Federal recognition.” County Legislator Wayne Horsley said “The Shinnecock Nation has been waiting for nearly four decades for their rightful place among the sovereign nations in the United States. The tribe has fought long and hard for this designation as the 565th federally recognized tribe.”

“We will continue to work in the spirit of cooperation with the Shinnecock Indian Nation as the tribe and Suffolk County move forward toward a more successful future.” Presiding Officer William Lindsay said he was honored to accept the Shinnecock Nation flag. Lindsay added: “Achieving Federal recognition is a critically important step for the Shinnecock Indian Nation as the Nation continues its battle to improve the quality of life of its members.”

“It is an honor to recognize the tribe finally getting the Federal recognition it well deserves” said Jay Schneiderman the Legislator of the Second Legislative district which includes the Shinnecock Nation. “Federal recognition is an important step as the tribe strives to improve life for all of its members.”

Following statements by Legislators and Shinnecock members Randy King – chairman, Lance Gumbs – senior trustee, Rose Elezer Cuffee Samuels – oldest living tribal member, Janine Tinsley Rowe – Native American advocate, Patricia Kennedy – Setalcott Nation, Gordell Wright - trustee, and LeRoy Carll – combat veteran, Vietnam, Presiding Officer Lindsay presented a proclamation to commemorate the Shinnecocks Federal Nation status and a traditional song of celebration.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, students of Suffolk Community College Culinary Institute presented a cake they had created with a copy of the seal of the Shinnecock Indian Nation.

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